

### In the Barber Shop



### FEATURES OF NEW HOTEL

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It is sixteen stories high above the street.

Its architecture is Gothic.

The exterior material is a dark brick up to the tenth story. Above that a white tile is used, and the building design is of the fretted and gabled French chateau style, with gabled roof painted a pleasing green.

The land on which the building stands cost \$115,000.

The building itself cost more than \$1,000,000.

The owner of the land and building is the Douglas Hotel company, a stock company made up chiefly of Omaha and Nebraska men.

**The Lessees.**

The company which leases the hotel from the owner is the Interstate Hotel company of Nebraska. W. R. Burbank, president and managing director.

The architect of the hotel is Thomas R. Kimball.

The construction company that built the hotel is the Selden-Breck company.

The general type of construction is steel frame with floors of hollow tile and reinforced concrete. Partitions are of tile and gypsum.

The lobby measures 22 1/2 feet and has a height of 23 1/2 feet. It is in the style of the Italian renaissance.

It contains everything that is found in the up-to-date hotel and some things that are ahead of the usual up-to-date hotel.

The office of Assistant Managing Di-

rector Abraham Burbank is just back of the clerk's desk, a sumptuous room.

To the east of this office is another handsome room which is the office of the director of restaurants.

Here persons wishing to arrange for giving dinners or banquets at the hotel will be received and arrangements will be made.

The ladies' parlor on the main floor is in the style of Adam. One on the mezzanine floor is in the Italian renaissance style.

**Convention Hall.**

The hall room, or convention, hall is forty-three by ninety-eight feet in size. The main dining room is thirty-one feet wide and eighty-four feet long. The palm room, which adjoins it to the south, is thirty-one feet wide and forty-seven feet long. These two rooms can be thrown into one big room 131 feet long.

The style of the dining room and palm room is that of the Francis I period.

The barber shop has ten chairs with ten tonsorial artists—we might say "artists"—accent on the last syllable, you know. These hair and whisker cultivators and trimmers have brought the very latest styles direct from New York.

The barber shop contains also three of the latest style of manicure tables, which will be presided over by three efficient manicurists.

Three bootblack stands will be in an adjoining alcove and under the personal supervision of professors of the art of bootblackening.

**Complete Ventilation.**

Let us not overlook the ventilation system cleverly designed to place under arrest and conduct to the outside of the

building all devitalized air and to welcome to the hotel pure air of the correct temperature to correspond with the time of the year.

The system is known as the "fan system" and is of such efficiency that it will change the air in the rooms of the hotel about every fifteen minutes.

Not only will it take out the bad air and replace it with fresh air from the outside. It will do more. It will supply better air than you get out in the open.

Better? you inquire. How can it be better. Can you improve on "Natcher?"

Yes, can you.

For nature frequently makes the air too hot or too cold and nature frequently and in many places has the air loaded with dust particles and disease germs. These will be removed by this Fontenelle ventilating system, which will take the air in from the outside (at a point 110 feet above the ground) and will then wash it—think of washing air—heat it or cool it and deliver it to the rooms all nice and ready to be breathed.

Did we mention the window boxes? Oh, they're going to add a lot to the external beauty of the hotel and to the view when you are inside looking out. They will be at the windows of the main floor and the "first" floor.

These window boxes will be more like miniature gardens than mere boxes, for they are of ample proportions and in them there will be not only flowers, but shrubs and bushes and even small trees.

Well, it is certainly a great and beautiful hotel. It is really going to be a revelation to everybody that goes inside of it and views its wonders.

For, mark you, people of Omaha, the Fontenelle is more than it has claimed

to be. Yes, it is true, that is just the opposite of most human institutions—and of most human beings, too—for that matter. But such is the case with the Fontenelle. It has done much and said (comparatively) little.

As an example of this, take its height. Fourteen stories, everybody says. That's what it is, officially. But remember that they don't begin to count stories till they reach the fourth one above the ground, which they call the "first."

Oh, such modesty.

Below the "first" floor are the ground floor, the main floor and the mezzanine floor.

There are really sixteen stories in the Fontenelle—above the street. And there are two stories, very busy stories, below the street. Total height, eighteen stories. The Fontenelle is started.

Long live the Fontenelle.

**Much Relieved.**

An eminent English man of science recently delivered a lecture during which an amusing incident occurred. In the course of his remarks he said something to this effect:

"It is a well-established fact that the sun is gradually losing its heat, and that in the course of 70,000,000 years its heating power will be so diminished that all beneficent effects will be lost and no life can exist on earth."

As soon as this sentence was uttered, a sturdy Briton in the rear of the hall rose and signified his desire to ask a question. "Pardon me," he said, "but how long did you say it would be before this terrible calamity would occur?"

"Why, about 70,000,000 years," repeated the scientist, with a smile.

The questioner fell back into his seat with a deep sigh of relief. "Thank heavens!" he muttered. "I thought I understood him to say 7,000,000." —Youth's Companion.

### HISTORY OF THE FONTENELLE

#### Omaha's Need of New Hotel Felt Since Period of Transmississippi Exposition.

#### CREDIT TO CITY OF 500,000

Omaha has had hotels and hotels since the city was a frontier settlement on the great overland trail to the gold fields of California and each time when a new hostelry has been erected it has been with the idea that the building has been in keeping with the importance and growth of the city.

The matter of hotel building has been continued for more than fifty years—until now when Omaha feels a pride in a hotel, the Fontenelle, a structure that in size and appointment in every particular would be a credit to a city of 500,000, or more population. And it is doubtful if there are many cities in the United States that has a hotel more beautiful and more perfect in every detail than the Fontenelle.

The inception of the movement that eventually brought about the erection of the Fontenelle dates back into history. As long ago as the holding of the Transmississippi exposition in 1898, Omaha felt the need of more adequate hotel facilities. However, that exposition was held and during the six months of its continuance, something like 3,000,000 strangers were within the gates of the city. They had been housed and cared for and everybody knew that it would be a long time before such crowds would again visit the city during a like period. Consequently the interest in the much talked of new hotel waned.

Following the exposition and with the advertising that the city secured, the fame of Omaha continued to be spread far and wide. Conventions and other large gatherings continued to select the city as their meeting places and the hotel facilities continued to be taxed.

**First Attempt Fails.**

It was not until 1907 that the hotel project took on any tangible form. During that year leading business men decided that a newer and a larger hotel in Omaha had become a necessity and early in the summer a hotel company was organized and capital stock to the amount of \$300,000 subscribed. An option was taken on the site now occupied by the Fontenelle hotel. Eighteenth and Douglas streets and it commenced to look as if a new hotel, one in keeping with the importance of the city would be erected in the near future. The movement took on shape and progressed to the extent of preparing tentative plans for a building.

Later in 1907 and before the harvest was garnered the situation changed. The crop throughout the west was not up to expectations and the country at large experienced something of a depression. The strings of the money bags were tightened and the enthusiasm that had characterized the hotel project, almost wholly disappeared. For five years the idea of a new hotel was allowed to rest. In the meantime, however, Omaha was forging ahead, not by leaps and bounds, but with a steady growth.

On every hand palatial business houses were being erected; the residence districts were expanding and new and modern homes were being erected. Strangers were coming in large numbers and the common comment was that Omaha was without a hotel such as a city of its size and importance needed and would support.

**Meeting in Nineteen-Twelve.**

Along in '12 the hotel talk had reached the stage where local capitalists and progressive business men reached the conclusion that the time for action had arrived. During the early summer Arthur D. Brandeis and John L. Kennedy called a public meeting of the leading business men of the city and presented a proposition that has had its culmination in the erection and completion of the \$1,000,000 Fontenelle hotel. At that meeting they offered to donate a plot of ground, 122 feet square at the corner of Eighteenth and Douglas streets, where the Fontenelle has since been erected, providing that the citizens of Omaha would organize a hotel company and aid in the financing of a project looking to the erection of a first class hotel.

At this meeting there were present such men as G. W. Wattle, Casper E. Yost, Victor E. Caldwell, Joseph H. Millard, A. L. Reed, Arthur Smith and many others. The proposition submitted by Mr. Brandeis and Mr. Kennedy was so attractive that before the meeting adjourned, it was accepted and \$100,000 of hotel stock subscribed. Following this subscription books were opened and inside of thirty days the required \$1,000,000 of stock was taken. Then followed the organization of the Douglas Hotel company, the company that has built the hotel.

From the time of the organization of the Douglas Hotel company, interest in the hotel project never flagged for a moment. The first thing that was done was to levy an assessment on the capital stock of the company. It was paid with remarkable promptness and then Thomas R. Kimball, a local architect was engaged to prepare the plans for the building. Shortly after the acceptance

of his plans, the building contract was awarded to the Selden, Breck Construction company and work commenced. The first excavating was done during March, 1914, and the first steel put in place April 23 of the same year.

**Building Constructed Rapidly.**

Never in the history of the city has a building been rushed to completion with more rapidity than has the new hotel. July 13, 1914, the flag was broken out from the top of the structure, indicating that on that date the last rivet had been driven in the last piece of structural steel.

While the steel was being put in place, those who had the sub-contracts, were not idle. The brick layers were following closely on the heels of the steel men and following them were the plasterers, who in turn were being followed by the carpenters, the plasterers and the finishers, the result of which meant that there was no delay in any department of the work.

The naming of the hotel was something that attracted attention far and wide. None of the officers, or stockholders of the hotel company felt willing to take the responsibility of selecting a name that would stand during the ages, or one that would give the hotel an individuality. Consequently through the newspapers they published notice of their plans. These plans proposed the suggestion of names, the party offering the name finally selected to be given a prize.

**Named for Chief Fontenelle.**

The idea of suggesting names proved popular. Thousands were offered, many good and many bad. The time for making the selection arrived and by unanimous consent it was voted to accept the name Fontenelle, offered by Judge Willis G. Sears of the district court bench.

As everybody in Nebraska knows, Fontenelle is the name of one of the great chiefs of the Omaha tribe of Indians—Indians who occupied this particular locality long before the coming of the whites. As history relates, not only was Logan Fontenelle a great chief, but he was a warm friend of the pioneers, he and his people rendering them many services during the early period of the settlement of Nebraska.

The men at the head of the Douglas Hotel company in continuing their aggressive methods, as soon as the construction of the Fontenelle hotel was well under way, commenced to cast about for a man to take charge of, and operate the hotel. They had applications by the hundreds, but knowing that they had a property equal to the best in the land felt that they need not be in a hurry in the selection of a landlord. They wanted a man who would fill the bill and one who would be up-to-date in every particular. From the large list of applicants they selected William R. Burbank, who had already won a most enviable reputation by reason of his conduct of the Hotel Onondago of Syracuse, N. Y.

**Burbank Organizes Company.**

Mr. Burbank came to Omaha, looked over the Fontenelle and the city and soon as he had entered into a lease with the Douglas Hotel company, cast his lot with the people of Omaha, organizing the Interstate Hotel company, the operating corporation, of which he is the active head.

During the construction of the Fontenelle hotel, and in fact, ever since its erection became an assured fact, everything in connection with its building has been looked after by a board of directors and with two exceptions, the same men, F. A. Nash and Charles T. Kountze, have been at the helm since the incorporation of the company. These directors are:

Victor E. Caldwell, J. H. Millard, A. C. Smith, Casper A. Yost, A. D. Brandeis, John L. McCague, John L. Kennedy, Charles H. Pichassa, Victor Rosewater, A. L. Reed, Frank T. Hamilton and G. W. Wattle.

F. A. Nash having died, he was succeeded by G. H. Harries and Charles T. Kountze having resigned, he was succeeded by Fred H. Davis.

#### FONTENELLE HARDWARE BRONZE WITH MONOGRAM

Hardware for the Fontenelle hotel was made to order of statutory bronze, with the hotel monogram "F." The F being double to balance the design. Milton Rogers Sons company won the contract in face of sharp competition.

Locks of the guests' rooms are made for four sets of keys. The guest controls the room absolutely under usual circumstances, locking the door from the inside and securing it against the master key that the maid in charge of the floor carries, and also against the grand master key that the housekeeper carries. Each floor has its own master key, different from that of other floors.

There is an emergency key kept by the manager of the hotel in his safe, and used only in event of accidents. Then there is a displacement key for use in such rare instances as that an undesirable guest may not turn in the key, thus excluding the undesirable guest.

For sample rooms used by jewelry salesmen there is a key that locks the room against any but the emergency key. Special hardware was also made for the service section of the hotel and the fireproof doors to stairways and elevator shafts and the hallways leading to elevators.

### In the Days of Shakespeare

The "Clubs" of London gathered in the taverns of old where rare Ben Jonson, Shakespeare, Beaumont, and Fletcher matched wits with the bon vivants of the day. The tavern of then is the hotel of now. The business man of today meets in the modern hotel, and at lunch or dinner gathers inspiration in his contact with his competitor who may be his friend. The common ground on which to meet is found in the public rooms of the hotel,

"Built for You to Enjoy"

HOTEL FONTENELLE